STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUGET SOUND ACTION TEAM
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June 8, 2004

TO: All those interested in the state of Washington's environmental protection and recovery priorities for Puget Sound

I am pleased to present the *2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities, Strategies and Results* as an interim product in developing the 2005-2007 *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan,* a two-year plan of work for the Puget Sound Action Team partnership. The Action Team partnership is charged by law with developing and implementing an integrated conservation agenda for Puget Sound each biennium. For the coming biennium, we started the process by identifying priorities, defined the best strategies to address those priorities, and then specified the results we want to achieve.

The next step in the process occurs over the summer of 2004, when state agency and university environmental education program partners will use the priorities, strategies and desired results in this document to develop target numbers for desired results, specific activities, and budget proposals for the July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007 biennium. All of that information will be compiled in the 2005-2007 *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan,* to be released in the fall 2004, which will be used by the governor and state legislature as they develop and approve the final plan and state budget for Puget Sound.

The Action Team partnership developed this document with input from the public and through interagency collaboration. In February and March of 2004, the partnership solicited public comment on the *2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities* document. Suggestions from the public and from local, tribal, federal and state government representatives served to improve the document and highlight issues of public concern.

I extend my thanks to all those who provided comments during public review, as well as to the many dedicated citizens and local and tribal government staff who work to protect and restore Puget Sound every day. The 2005-2007 *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan* will help the state support those efforts so that together we achieve progress in conserving and restoring the rich and complex ecosystem of Puget Sound.

Sincerely,

Brad Ack
Director

2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities, Strategies and Results
Puget Sound Action Team Partnership
June 8, 2004

***Part I of the 2005-2007 Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan*[1]**

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[1] The June 8, 2004 document is for agency review and discussion at the June 10, 2004 Management Team meeting.

Introduction to the 2005-2007 Priorities, Strategies and Results

The Puget Sound Action Team (Action Team), created in law in 1996, is the state's partnership for Puget Sound, charged with defining, coordinating and putting into action the state's environmental protection and restoration agenda for the Sound. The Action Team partnership is made up of state agencies and federal, tribal and local government representatives. The Puget Sound Council, which advises the Action Team, is composed of diverse interest groups, state legislators and tribal and local government representatives.

The Action Team partnership has adopted the *2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities, Strategies and Results* as the strategic framework to guide agency budget proposals for the 2005-2007 biennium. The Action Team looked across the spectrum of issues that threaten the health of Puget Sound and then set priorities to guide the partnership's work in the Sound. This document identifies those priorities and the results the partnership will work to achieve in 2005-2007. The document also should help to coordinate work and activities among agencies on each priority.

This document is an interim product, and will now be used by Action Team partner agencies to develop target numbers for desired results, specific activities, and budget proposals for the 2005-2007 biennium. That information, along with narratives for each priority, will be compiled in the 2005-2007 *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan* that will be submitted to the governor and then the state legislature as they develop and approve the final state budget for Puget Sound.

The 2005-2007 *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan* will be the Action Team's fifth biennial work plan to implement the *Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan*, a long-term comprehensive plan adopted by the state and federal governments to protect and restore Puget Sound.

Priorities and Results

The Action Team partnership has identified the following as the most important priorities for its work together in Puget Sound, but ***has not ranked any priority over the others in importance***:

- Clean up contaminated sites and sediments.
- Reduce continuing toxic contamination and prevent future contamination.
- Reduce the harmful impacts from stormwater runoff.
- Prevent nutrient and pathogen pollution caused by human and animal wastes.
- Protect shorelines and other critical areas that provide important ecological functions.
- Restore degraded nearshore and freshwater habitats.
- Conserve and recover orca, salmon, forage fish and groundfish.

This interim product presents strategies and results for each priority for the 2005-2007 biennium. State agencies and university education partners seek an appropriate balance of research, technical assistance, regulation, education and public involvement, enforcement, funding, and demonstration projects that will deliver progress on each priority.

The desired results identified for each priority emphasize the work of state agency and university education partners because the work plan's primary function is as a state budget document. The Action Team partnership recognizes that this emphasis does not allow for an adequate reflection of the significant contributions of local, federal, tribal and private partners toward progress in protecting and restoring Puget Sound.

Each Puget Sound priority builds on the foundation of best available scientific knowledge about environmental conditions and management strategies. Studies by scientists from numerous federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as universities, colleges, environmental organizations and citizen groups have provided information about the condition of the Puget Sound ecosystem and the impact of human activities.

The strategies and desired results presented in this document reflect the thinking of Action Team partners and resource managers at all levels of government about how to translate the findings of the relevant scientific studies into policies and programs. As described in the final section of this document, the Puget Sound partnership expects that research and monitoring conducted in the 2005-2007 biennium will increase knowledge about the impacts of human activities on Puget Sound's cultural, economic and ecological resources and on the health of Puget Sound residents, and allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to curb and even reverse these impacts.

How Public Input has Shaped the *2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities*

The Action Team partnership issued a draft of the *2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities* for a public comment period in February and March of 2004. Comments from members of the public and state, federal, tribal and local governments generated a number of improvements in the document, large and small. These include adding a section on the role of the Action Team partnership, the Puget Sound Council and the Action Team staff (see page 4) and another section explaining the role of science (see page 19).

In addition, agencies and university environmental education partners have added results for their work to educate and involve the public around several priorities. In response to public input, the work plan will include more information on the connection between a healthy ecosystem and human health, as well as information on the Hood Canal low dissolved oxygen problem. Priority 4 now includes a greater emphasis on nutrient pollution. In addition, Action Team partners added forage fish to priority 7 as species at risk to target for conservation and recovery actions.

Agencies and university environmental education partners will now use this document to develop their agency activities and budgets during the summer of 2004. Although

broader agency responsibilities, legal mandates, and budget constraints help shape agency planning, the Action Team partnership agencies are coordinating and focusing their work in Puget Sound around the results detailed in this document. State partners have aligned these results shown for Puget Sound priorities with their internal work plans and strategic plans. Action Team partner agencies will provide target numbers for the results and detailed information on proposed activities and budgets to achieve those results in the final work plan in the fall of 2004.

In addition, Washington State's newly adopted budget process, the Priorities of Government (POG), will use the 2005-2007 *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan* in planning the 2005-2007 state government budget. And finally, as the governor and the legislature work together in the winter of 2005 to decide where to spend limited state resources, the Action Team partnership's biennial plan will provide guidance. The plan will reflect public review, will be consistent with agency strategic plans and budget proposals, and will be coordinated around achieving measurable progress on the highest priorities for Puget Sound.

The Role of the Action Team Partnership for 2005-2007

Long-term goal: Provide the state's institutional framework to lead and coordinate the protection and restoration of Puget Sound.

Strategies for the Puget Sound Action Team Partnership, Puget Sound Council and Action Team Staff for 2005-2007

1. Define, coordinate, and implement the state's environmental protection and restoration agenda for Puget Sound.
2. Bring interagency and intergovernmental strategic thinking, communication and action to bear on Puget Sound's existing and emerging conservation needs. Choose between and develop specific strategies and courses of action, evaluate effectiveness of those strategies and actions, and build upon success.
3. Engage and involve Puget Sound local and tribal governments, state agencies, organizations and citizens in efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound through a variety of outreach projects, programs and education efforts.

Desired Results for the Puget Sound Action Team Partnership, Puget Sound Council, and Action Team Staff for 2005-2007

A. Puget Sound Action Team Partnership
   1. Activities are well managed and successfully implemented to achieve measurable and meaningful progress on priorities in the 2005-2007 Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan.
   2. A report on the Action Team Partnership's progress in implementing the 2005-*2007 Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan* is submitted to the governor, the legislature and the public by December 2006.
   3. Priorities are adopted for Puget Sound for the 2007-2009 biennium and, with the advice of the Puget Sound Council, a Puget Sound work plan and proposed budget for the 2007-2009 biennium is prepared, approved and submitted to the governor and the legislature.

B. Puget Sound Council
   1. The Puget Sound Council assesses the work of the Partnership on a continuous basis and makes recommendations for improvements and new areas and ways of engagement.
   2. The Council actively creates linkages to the key constituencies represented on the Council to improve collaboration and partnership opportunities and to improve information flow and communication in all directions.

C. Puget Sound Action Team Staff
   1. Action Team staff functions as an effective advocate for Puget Sound and its existing and emerging conservation needs.
   2. Outreach, technical assistance and funding for public involvement and education (PIE) projects are provided to local and tribal governments, businesses, trade

associations, environmental and community groups, and interested individuals and organizations. PIE projects will reach ____citizens with education directed at behavior change and _____ citizens directed to raise awareness around priorities in the 2005-2007 Puget Sound Work Plan.

3. The Puget Sound community is provided with accurate, relevant and accessible information on the status of the Puget Sound ecosystem, issues related to the health of the ecosystem, and activities of the Puget Sound Action Team partnership and Council.
4. Action Team staff monitor current and emerging conservation and environmental issues in Puget Sound, track and participate in significant policy and program development in Puget Sound, seek and promote practical solutions to environmental problems, and work to find alternatives to activities and projects that may harm Puget Sound's marine and freshwater environment.
5. Action Team staff support and coordinate the work of the Puget Sound Action Team partnership and the Puget Sound Council.

PRIORITY 1: Clean Up Contaminated Sites and Sediments

Long-term goal: All sediments exceeding state standards for contamination are cleaned up.

Action Team Partnership's Proposed Strategy for 2005-2007

1. Continue to remediate the identified clean up sites.
2. Manage navigation dredging operations to clean up contaminated areas whenever possible and prevent contamination of unconfined disposal sites.

Desired Results for Clean Up of Contaminated Sites and Sediments in 2005-2007

A. Sites are cleaned up
   1. The total number of acres of contaminated sediments that are remediated increases by ___acres from July 2005 to June 2007.
   2. Number of upland site cleanups completed through Superfund, Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and corrective action at high priority hazardous waste facilities increases to ____by June 2007. This represents at least ___percent of known number of cleanup actions.

B. In-water sites are managed and moved towards cleanup
   1. ____ acres are evaluated to assess whether cleanup is needed during the biennium.
   2. The Department of Ecology's (Ecology) inventory of contaminated sediment sites is updated by review of information on patterns of sediment contamination and degradation.
   3. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) identifies and addresses contaminated sites on state-owned aquatic lands.
      a. All known contaminated sediment sites and any accompanying institutional controls are identified on state-owned aquatic lands.
      b. A strategy to address areas affected by accumulation of woody debris in association with log transport, storage and processing is developed and implemented for state-owned aquatic lands.
      c. All contaminated sites that are remediated by capping on state-owned aquatic lands under CERCLA and MTCA receive proprietary use authorizations (through leases or other actions) from the DNR.

C. The public is informed
   1. A comprehensive presentation of all known contaminated sediment sites, their size, key contaminants, status and expected date for remediation to be completed is available to the public.

D. Monitor progress
   1. Source controls at cleaned sites are effective as shown in an evaluation of longer term monitoring data from a sample of sites.

PRIORITY 2: Reduce Continuing Toxic Contamination and Prevent Future Contamination

Long-term goal: Reduce and eventually eliminate harm from toxic pollutants entering Puget Sound.

Action Team Partnership's Proposed Strategy for 2005-2007

1. Reduce the use of hazardous chemicals by continuing to implement the (persistent bioaccumulative toxins) PBT strategy.
2. Reduce the loading of other substances by using a variety of best management practices and improved treatment methods.
3. Continue to place a priority on actions to prevent oil and hazardous material spills.

Desired Results for Reducing Continuing Toxic Contamination and Preventing Future Contamination in 2005-2007

A. Toxic loadings are reduced
   1. Reduce total releases of priority air toxics affecting the Puget Sound basin by ____ percent over the biennium.
   2. Reduce total releases of priority toxics discharged directly to water in the Puget Sound basin as identified by the Toxics Release Inventory by ___percent over the biennium.
   3. Total loadings in the Puget Sound basin of PBTs from individually permitted wastewater discharges decrease ___percent over the biennium.
   4. The number of 25-10,000 gallon spills decreases by _____and the volume of oil reaching surface waters from these spills decreases by ___ gallons, a reduction of ___percent over the course of the biennium.
   5. Volume of reclaimed wastewater in Puget Sound increases by ___million gallons per day during the course of the biennium.

B. State agencies control sources of contamination
   1. Department of Agriculture investigates, reports and enforces actions for all referred complaints about possible pesticide misuse.
   2. Department of Agriculture collects _____pounds of unusable, cancelled or suspended pesticides in its waste pesticide program.
   3. 100 percent of dredge spoils are characterized and evaluated for the potential suitability of beneficial re-use, dispersive open water disposal, non-dispersive open water disposal on state-owned aquatic lands, or removal to an approved disposal facility if testing and review determine that it is unsuitable for the above options
   4. Through state aquatic land transactions, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) identifies sites that may have excessive wood debris accumulations and initiates appropriate sampling investigations in coordination with the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to determine the need for remedial action on at least 10 percent of those sites.

5. By June 2007, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for ___percent of municipal sewage treatment plants have been renewed, or newly issued within the past five years.
6. By June 2007, NPDES permits for ___percent of industrial permits have been renewed or newly issued within the past 5 years.

C. Plans to reduce toxics are developed
   1. PBT strategy and chemical-specific action plans are implemented.
      a. One chemical action plan is completed during the 2005-2007 biennium.
      b. The mercury cleanup plan is implemented.
   2. Ecology completes ____ toxic-focused water quality cleanup plans or technical studies during the biennium. (Ecology will provide target numbers in June 2005.)
   3. Ecology's Technical Resources for Energy Efficiency (TREE) program completes evaluations that suggest quantifiable waste reductions for six industrial facilities in the Puget Sound basin during the biennium.

D. The public is informed and involved
   1. Citizens, business owners, licensed pesticide applicators and others receive education, training and technical assistance to adopt behaviors and take actions to reduce toxic pollution.
   2. _____ marinas in Puget Sound and _____ boaters and fishermen are reached by an educational effort to reduce small spills aimed at commercial fishermen, boaters, and marinas and harbors that serve them.

E. Monitor progress and develop models
   1. Sufficient monitoring data are collected and made available to support activities to control toxics.
   2. DNR develops the scope for a mass-balance model for toxic metal and organic contaminants in Puget Sound.
   3. Environmental monitoring requirements for combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls are implemented on state-owned aquatic lands.

PRIORITY 3: Reduce the Harm from Stormwater Runoff

Long-term goal: Improve management of stormwater runoff and reduce combined sewer overflows to meet water quality standards in all waters of the basin.

Action Team Partnership's Proposed Strategy for 2005-2007

1. Expand the regulatory program of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permits.
2. Increase the use of innovative techniques known as low impact development.
3. Continue development of local comprehensive stormwater programs.
4. Manage runoff from state highways according to the updated highway runoff manual.
5. Continue to reduce the number and volume of combined sewer overflow (CSO) events to Puget Sound.

Desired Results to Reduce the Harm from Stormwater Runoff in 2005-2007

A. Water quality impairment from stormwater is improved
   1. Improved water quality conditions and less restrictive shellfish harvest classifications in ____ shellfish growing areas threatened or degraded by stormwater runoff.
   2. ___ percent of jurisdictions with combined sewer overflows meet the milestones in their CSO reduction plans, such as implementing CSO reduction activities.

B. Permits and programs to manage stormwater are expanded
   1. ____ percent of the jurisdictions who need a municipal stormwater permit have obtained a permit that includes provisions for monitoring and reporting.
   2. The number of local governments adopting the elements of the Puget Sound comprehensive local stormwater program increases by ____ percent during the biennium.
   3. Use authorizations for stormwater outfalls issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are coordinated with regulatory permitting agencies to provide for modeling of known potential impacts and long term monitoring on state-owned aquatic lands.
   4. Department of Ecology (Ecology) staff carry out stormwater inspections at ____(number) of construction sites.
   5. Ecology staff carry out stormwater inspections at ____(number) of industries.

C. The use of low impact development stormwater practices is increased
   1. Credits for low impact development techniques in the *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington* are updated based on monitoring data and evaluations made available by January 2007.
   2. The number of local governments with ordinances that allow for or encourage the use of low impact development techniques increases to ____.

D. Runoff from state highways is managed
   1. _____percent of state highway construction sites are prepared for the wet season by having in place effective erosion and sediment control best management practices.
   2. Stormwater retrofits for existing impervious surfaces are completed on ____prioritized outfalls of state highways, especially where high-volume traffic drains to sensitive water bodies.
   3. Number of runoff treatment and flow control best management practices provided to mitigate the impacts of new impervious surface added as part of transportation construction projects.

E. The public is informed and involved
   1. _____home owners, vehicle owners, members of the real estate and development community, and state, tribal and local government staff increase their knowledge, skills and motivation to change behaviors and practices to reduce contamination and volume of stormwater runoff. This will include awarding ____ clock hours to real estate professionals.
   2. _____percent of local governments will provide public education and involvement opportunities to citizens.

F. Monitor progress
   1. Municipal NPDES stormwater permits will include effectiveness monitoring.

PRIORITY 4: Reduce Nutrient and Pathogen Pollution Caused by Human Sewage and Animal Wastes

Long-term goal: Reduce nutrient and pathogen pollution from human and animal waste to meet water quality standards in all Puget Sound waters.

Action Team Partnership's Proposed Strategy for 2005-2007

1. Focus Action Team partnership efforts and resources geographically, in high risk locations such as Hood Canal, in threatened or contaminated shellfish harvest areas, and in streams where state and local partners can carry out water clean up plans and shellfish restoration strategies to reduce loadings.
2. Provide technical assistance and funding to strengthen local programs in data management, public education, monitoring, and corrective actions, especially in high-risk locations.
3. Assist local jurisdictions in finding solutions to increase landowner compliance with onsite sewage disposal system maintenance and animal waste management practices through education and regulated inspection.
4. Continue to emphasize preventing pollution to protect the environment and human health in regulatory, technical assistance, and management activities.

Desired Results to Reduce Nutrient and Pathogen Pollution from Human Sewage and Animal Wastes in 2005-2007

A. Pollutant loads are reduced
   1. Shellfish growing area improvements:
      a. Improved water quality conditions result in less restrictive shellfish harvest classifications for ____acres.
      b. Improved water quality conditions and less restrictive harvest classifications in ___ shellfish growing areas threatened or degraded by concentrations of onsite sewage systems.
   2. Fecal coliform loadings to Hood Canal from the Skokomish River and the Union River are reduced by ___percent over the course of the biennium.
   3. Gallons of boater waste collected at pumpouts due to State Parks education and boater waste facilities increases by 5 percent during the biennium.

B. State and local efforts improve watershed health
   1. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) completes ___ nutrient, dissolved oxygen, and fecal coliform-focused water quality cleanup plans on an annual basis. (Ecology will provide target numbers in June 2005.)
   2. Number of restoration projects in commercial shellfish areas identified as "threatened."
   3. Percent decrease in the number of commercial growing areas no longer on Health's early warning list as "threatened" from the prior year.

C. Management of onsite sewage disposal systems
   1. By June 30, 2007, Puget Sound local health jurisdictions complete risk-based management plans for onsite sewage systems, as required by revised State Board of Health rules, and begin their implementation.
   2. Number of local health jurisdictions able to create GIS maps to evaluate and manage concentrations of onsite sewage systems located adjacent to water bodies impaired by fecal or nutrient loadings increases to ___ of 12 jurisdictions by June 2007.
   3. The Department of Health tracks long term management of large onsite sewage systems (LOSS) under the Operating Permit Program provided in revised State Board of Health rules.

D. Reduce nutrients and pathogens in Hood Canal by implementing actions in the *Hood Canal Low Dissolved Oxygen Preliminary Assessment and Corrective Action Plan*.

E. Farms and marinas management is improved
   1. At least 90 percent of Puget Sound large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) facilities will be in compliance with Washington State Department of Agriculture rules by the end of the biennium.
   2. Conservation Districts approve and implement _____best management practices on small non-commercial livestock operations.
   3. Conservation Districts approve and implement ____ best management practices on larger livestock operations that meet the definition of Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs), and ____ best management practices on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).
   4. Conservation Districts complete _____approved conservation plans.
   5. Eight boater waste facilities are installed or replaced in Puget Sound through funding from the State Parks and Recreation Commission.

F. The public is informed and involved
   1. ____ homeowners and boaters in Hood Canal will increase their knowledge, skills, and motivation to change their behaviors and practices to improve their management of onsite sewage systems, vessel holding tanks, pet and livestock waste.
   2. Throughout Puget Sound, citizens engage in public education and involvement opportunities that change behavior and result in actions to reduce nutrient and pathogen pollution and to increase beneficial uses of state waters, including the safe harvest of shellfish.

PRIORITY 5: Protect Shorelines and Other Critical Areas that Provide Important Ecological Functions

Long-term goal: Preserve the ecological processes that create and maintain marine and freshwater habitats and minimize losses in ecological function and area of these habitats within the Puget Sound basin.

Action Team Partnership's Proposed Strategy for 2005-2007

1. Help achieve effective critical areas ordinance updates, other growth management and Shoreline Master Program updates through funding, technical assistance, data and comment.
2. Work with local governments and other partners to conserve shorelines and other critical areas through application of a variety of conservation tools.
3. Work at the local level to integrate regulatory and conservation approaches in implementing watershed and salmon recovery plans.
4. Prevent the introduction of new aquatic nuisance species in Puget Sound, in part through volunteer activities.

Desired Results to Protect Shorelines and Other Critical Areas that Provide Important Ecological Functions in 2005-2007

A. Habitat is conserved
   1. Increase the number of acres of ecologically important land permanently protected and properly managed through the course of the biennium. This will be accomplished through Department of Natural Resources (DNR) aquatic reserves, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) land acquisition (fee-simple and conservation easements) and land acquisitions funded by grants administered by the Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation (IAC).
   2. Aquatic reserves and other withdrawn areas are evaluated, designated and managed by DNR on state-owned aquatic lands.

B. Protections are improved
   1. Snohomish County, Whatcom County, the city of Port Townsend and the city of Bellingham update their Shoreline Master Programs (SMP) to new guidelines by December 1, 2005. Other jurisdictions funded for SMP updates as early adopters will be on schedule for this biennium or soon after.
   2. Island, Mason, San Juan and Skagit counties will update their critical areas ordinances to include best available science to protect eelgrass and kelp beds, forage fish spawning habitat, and shellfish growing areas by December 1, 2005.
   3. DNR in collaboration with WDFW protects 100 percent of eelgrass beds and herring spawning areas within areas of geoduck tracts where wild stock geoduck are being harvested on state-owned aquatic lands.
   4. A statewide seagrass management and conservation plan is developed by DNR involving local, state and federal agencies, tribes, private tideland owners and other interests to create and agreed-upon consistent approach for conservation,

mitigation, restoration and monitoring to protect this critical resource and/or its functions.

5. A report with recommendations for managing ballast water is submitted to the legislature by December 2006.
6. A statewide strategy for coordinating land acquisition and disposal by state agencies is implemented as directed by the legislature based on a June 30, 2005 report by the Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation.
7. No new aquatic nuisance species is introduced, and the spread of existing species, such as Spartina, is minimized.
8. Eco-regional planning is used as a tool to identify critical ecologically important lands and marine areas.

C. Technical assistance is provided to local governments

1. A landscape-scale computer-based tool for assessing projects and sub-basin areas is developed to assist local governments in protecting shorelines and other critical areas that provide important ecological functions.
2. Local governments receive technical information and assistance with comprehensive planning decisions and permits related to wetlands.
3. Local governments and organizations receive technical assistance for creating and monitoring locally adopted marine protected areas.

D. The public is informed and involved

1. Citizens receive technical information and assistance on wetlands restoration and stewardship in the context of voluntary actions, as well as regulatory actions related to shoreline management and federal permitting activities.
2. Shoreline landowners, consultants and developers receive education and technical assistance to promote alternatives to traditional "hard" methods of shoreline modifications that allow the shoreline to maintain natural processes.
3. _____local government staff, real estate professionals, developers and citizens increase their knowledge, skills, and motivation to change their behaviors and practices to better protect shorelines and other ecologically critical areas, including restoration and stewardship voluntary actions. This will include awarding ____clock hours to real estate professionals.

E. Monitor progress

1. A long-term monitoring program is developed by DNR to track temporal trends in the extent of eelgrass and floating kelp resources in Puget Sound.
2. The DNR Submerged Vegetation Monitoring Program is expanded to include site-specific monitoring to determine the link between bed dynamics and stressors on state-owned aquatic lands.
3. A strategic monitoring plan for all authorized activities on state-owned aquatic lands is developed by DNR in collaboration with the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program (PSAMP), the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and other monitoring efforts.
4. Intertidal flora and fauna is used by DNR to measure abundance and biodiversity in biotic communities throughout Puget Sound through the Spatial Classification and Landscape Extrapolation (SCALE) project.

PRIORITY 6: Restore Degraded Nearshore and Freshwater Habitats

Long-term goal: Achieve a net gain in ecological function and area of streams, nearshore and estuarine habitats within Puget Sound.

Action Team Partnership's Proposed Strategy for 2005-2007

1. Work together to apply the best scientific principles to improve the performance of process-based restoration projects.
2. Support and assist in regional coordination of large-scale initiatives such as the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP), the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters program, the Northwest Straits Commission, salmon habitat restoration through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and other efforts.
3. Control aquatic nuisance species, including implementing a rapid response plan should any new species be detected.

Desired Results for Restoring Degraded Nearshore and Freshwater Habitats in 2005-2007

A. Restoration projects improve habitat
   1. Projects to restore natural habitat forming processes increase the area of tidally and seasonally influenced estuarine wetlands by __acres over the course of the biennium.
   2. Projects to restore riparian habitat improve conditions and processes on ___miles of Puget Sound shorelines, estuaries, rivers and streams.
   3. Fish passage barrier removal projects open ___ miles of stream habitat and ___acres of estuarine habitat.
   4. Efforts to restore and protect the natural delivery of sediment and organic matter improve the natural functions of ___Puget Sound drift cells by the end of the biennium
   5. Reduce the area of Puget Sound infested by *Spartina* spp. by ___acres (a ___percent reduction) during the biennium.
   6. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) coordinates and assists with identifying and funding of collaborative restoration efforts with local, state, and federal entities on state-owned aquatic lands.
   7. ____acres and _____stream miles of riparian habitat are protected by the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

B. Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project creates a new approach for restoration in Puget Sound
   1. Partners complete a feasibility report and pursue enactment of an approach for implementing strategic, large-scale projects to restore processes that create and sustain nearshore habitats.
   2. Process-based restoration objectives identified by PSNERP partners are explicitly considered in all large-scale mitigation projects, natural resource damage

assessment decision documents, and waterfront redevelopment projects affecting Puget Sound's nearshore environments.

3. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and partners provide technical support to restoration feasibility programs for Capitol Lake, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, and other priority, large-scale restoration activities.
4. WDFW and the Department of Ecology (Ecology), in collaboration with partner agencies, develop and pilot mechanisms to optimize the environmental benefits derived from environmental impact mitigation.

C. <u>The public is informed and involved</u>

1. ___ planners, natural resource agency staff, real estate professionals, developers, volunteers and landowners will increase their knowledge, skills and ability to advise others in the restoration of degraded shoreline, nearshore and freshwater habitats. Actual restoration projects accomplished through education efforts will restore ____acres/feet of shoreline or streambank areas.

D. <u>Monitor progress</u>

1. The proportion of restoration actions funded through the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board that incorporate project-specific effectiveness monitoring and formal adaptive management reaches ___percent by the end of the biennium.

PRIORITY 7: Conserve and Recover Orca, Salmon, Forage Fish and Groundfish

Long-term goal: Achieve balanced, stable and self-sustaining populations of all indigenous marine species in Puget Sound.

Action Team Partnership's Proposed Strategy for 2005-2007

1. Achieve significant progress on priorities 1 through 6 of this document for overall ecosystem protection and recovery to support recovery of these species.
2. Implement actions required in species recovery plans, provide technical guidance and support to local implementers, and participate in addressing regional needs for monitoring and adaptive management.
3. Help coordinate implementation of recovery plans to avoid unnecessary duplication and to leverage opportunities among the various recovery plans.
4. In anticipation of completion of a rockfish conservation plan, support regulatory and voluntary tools for rockfish recovery.

Desired Results for Conserving and Recovering Orca, Salmon, Forage Fish and Groundfish in 2005-2007

A. Orca recovery plans are completed and implementation begun
   1. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) completes an orca recovery plan with specified management actions and implementation of Action Team partner agency activities occurs on the schedule identified in the plan.
   2. Action Team partner agencies participate in the development and implementation of orca recovery plans developed by NOAA Fisheries and Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

B. Salmon recovery plan is implemented
   1. Action Team partner agencies implement the habitat management activities identified for them in the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound's salmon recovery plan.
   2. Hatchery reforms identified by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group and, where appropriate, approved by NOAA Fisheries, are implemented.
   3. Harvest is executed in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
   4. Re-licensing of hydropower projects is consistent with salmon recovery goals.

C. Marine fish are protected
   1. Healthy stocks of forage fish are maintained by implementing WDFW's Forage Fish Management Plan.
   2. Forage fish stock and habitat information is available in Geographic Information System (GIS) format and is accessible to the public.
   3. Direct and indirect harvest impacts on rockfish are minimized.

D. Habitat conservation plans are developed by the Department of Natural Resources
   1. Strategies are developed through a habitat conservation planning effort to reduce impacts to listed species on state-owned aquatic lands.
   2. A low-effect habitat conservation plan is completed for geoduck wild stock harvest.

E. The public is informed and involved
   1. Research related to conserving and recovering species at risk, especially research in nearshore habitat and food chain issues, is transferred to federal, state, tribal and local governments and citizens.

F. Monitor progress
   1. Status and trends monitoring continues to track recovery of threatened orca, salmon ground fish and forage fish populations.

The Role of Science in Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery in 2005-2007[2]

Long-term goal: Assess the health of Puget Sound and its resources and communicate information to promote informed choices for the environmental management of Puget Sound.

Action Team Partnership's Proposed Strategy for 2005-2007

1. Conduct Puget Sound research and monitoring activities to improve the scientific understanding of the Puget Sound ecosystem and evaluate the effectiveness of environmental resource management programs.
2. Expand the knowledge base of Puget Sound science through collaborations of partner agencies with academic and scientific institutions, local and tribal governments, and citizen monitoring groups. Coordinate these interdisciplinary efforts to ensure consistencies and efficiencies in data management and protocols for sampling and analysis.
3. Provide information to citizens, government leaders, and resource managers to help them improve efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound.

Desired Results for Continued Efforts in Research and Monitoring in 2005-2007

1. Use long-term monitoring to assess the effectiveness of remedial actions and drive adaptive management strategies to ensure that the stated goals for Puget Sound priorities and programs are achieved.

2. Provide status and trends data for forage fish, ground fish, marine birds and other select species.

3. Identify threats to human health from marine environmental conditions such as harmful algal blooms, domoic acid, paralytic shellfish poisoning and other water contaminants.

4. Disseminate research and monitoring results to managers via publications in primary and technical literature, meetings/workshops, and the 2007 Puget Sound-Georgia Basin Research Conference.

5. Provide data from monitoring and focus studies in easy-to-use formats to scientists, planners and managers so that they may use and benefit from the findings.

6. Identify and set priorities for emerging issues (e.g., toxic contamination, water quality degradation, habitat changes) to (a) focus development of new research

[2] The interagency Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program (PSAMP) has developed the strategies and results presented here through preliminary discussions. The PSAMP committees will continue to discuss and refine these statements over the coming months.

partnerships to address important and/or urgent questions and (b) refer issues to appropriate management authorities for rapid response to significant environmental changes.

7. Provide technical assistance in sampling and analysis procedures, protocols, and guidelines to governments, community groups and other scientists.

8. Develop predictive models and assessment tools to help guide restoration and protection actions for Puget Sound processes, habitats, and species.

9. Implement the Intensively Monitored Watershed Program to investigate causes and effects in select watersheds and estuaries.

Glossary of Planning Terms Used in the *2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities, Strategies and Results*

***2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities, Strategies and Results*:** The document establishes the priorities, strategies, and desired results for the *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan 2005-2007* and provides guidance for agencies and university programs in planning activities and budget proposals that are focused on achieving progress on the priorities during the July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007 biennial budget period.

***2005-2007 Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan*:** A biennial work plan for the Puget Sound Action Team Partnership. The work plan will combine the adopted *2005-2007 Puget Sound Priorities, Strategies and Results* document with proposed activities and budget information submitted by state agencies and university programs in September 2004. The Action Team will submit the approved work plan to the governor and the legislature according to the requirements of RCW 90.71.050. The plan does not include everything happening the state government on Puget Sound, nor does it attempt to roll up all federal, local and tribal government and non-governmental organization implementation actions.

Priority: The priorities break down the goals of the long-term *Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan* into smaller, more specific pieces that focus the partnership on the objectives that are the most important to work on together during the 2005-2007 biennium, based on an assessment of the existing threats and opportunities in Puget Sound.

Long-term goal: For each priority this is an environmental condition or outcome that represents a significant aspect of resolving the problem over a time period that extends beyond the two-year budget period.

Strategies: For each priority these are the key methods or approaches that describe how the partnership will achieve progress on the priority during the two-year budget period.

Desired results: Each priority includes desired results that Action Team partners have identified along with measures of progress they are committed to achieve, depending on funding they receive under the proposed budget. Target numbers will be included in the fall 2004 *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan for 2005-2007*. The partnership will use these results and measures to track and report their progress on each priority to the public, the governor and the legislature during and at the end of the two-year work plan period.

Activity: An activity is something an agency does to accomplish goals and make progress on priorities. It consumes resources and helps produce desired results, whether as a product, a service or an outcome.